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**ILLEGAL ALIEN MS-13 MEMBER SENTENCED FOR
POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION**

Greenbelt, Maryland - U.S. District Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. sentenced Carlos Lopez-Guerra, also known as "Vampi," age 21, of Hyattsville, Maryland today to 27 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for being an illegal alien in possession of ammunition, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Williams enhanced Lopez-Guerra's sentence upon finding that he possessed the ammunition in connection with another felony offense, namely conspiracy to conduct and participate in the activities of MS-13, a racketeering enterprise. Judge Williams also found that MS-13 constituted a racketeering enterprise, having committed numerous homicides and other violent crimes in the District of Maryland and ordered that Lopez-Guerra be deported at the conclusion of his sentence.

According to his guilty plea, on November 30, 2005, agents of the Regional Area Gang Enforcement Unit (RAGE) executed a search warrant at a residence in the 7400 block of 17th Avenue in Hyattsville, to recover evidence of an assault involving members of the violent street gang La Mara Salvatrucha-13, also known as MS-13. Upon arriving at the location, RAGE officers learned that Lopez-Guerra, a known MS-13 gang member, resided in a basement room. During the search of Lopez-Guerra's room, officers discovered nine rounds of .38 caliber Remington ammunition in a closet, stored along with Lopez-Guerra's personal documents and MS-13 drawings.

On February 15, 2006, an agent of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) interviewed Lopez-Guerra and determined that he had illegally entered the United States and was subject to removal proceedings. During his interview with the ICE agent, Lopez-Guerra admitted his membership in MS-13 and his gang name of "Vampi."

To date, this office has charged 46 MS-13 gang members with various federal offenses; 18 gang members have been convicted at trial or pled guilty to RICO charges and 13 have pleaded guilty to other charges, mostly immigration or gun violations.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and other members of the RAGE Task Force for their investigative work, and commended Assistant United States Attorney Stacy Dawson Belf, who prosecuted the case.